

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 9th August, 1989|18th
Shravana, 1911 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS OF 'QUIT INDIA' MOVEMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, 9th August, that is today is a very historic and momentous day in the freedom struggle of our country. It was on this day in 1942 that Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, gave the call "Quit India" to the British Government. The whole nation responded to the call of Gandhiji and participated in the movement with single-minded commitment and dedication, which culminated in our achieving independence five years later. Today is the day of thanks-giving and dedication, a day of remembrance and reverence. We pay our humble and respectful homage to all those martyrs who gave their lives and to all those who suffered untold sufferings for the cause of Independence. I would request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs and freedom fighters.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.]

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): What about Bharat Bachhao day?

HOMAGE TO ATOM BOMB VICTIMS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I also refer to the holocaust that shook mankind the world over 44 years ago. The dreaded atom bomb was dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan on the 6th and 9th August, 1945, killing and maiming

lakhs of innocent people and leaving behind a trail of suffering, misery and destruction. I pray these tragic incidents will never be repeated again and I would request hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the bomb victims.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Steamer Service between Bombay and Goa

*321. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to resume Bombay-Goa steamer service;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to permit private operator to ply steamers on this route; and

(c) whether any applications have been received by Government for licence for ships/hovercraft/hydrofoil to ply on this route and if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Government have no proposal to resume the steamer service. Their policy is to encourage private operators to ply on the route.

(c) Four applications were received.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, I understand that these two steamers which were plying between Bombay and Goa "Konkan Shakti" and "Konkan Shevak" are on a special mission in national interest. But I would like the hon. Minister to reconsider his proposal and see that when this mission is over, the steamers are put back on this route

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, we will consider this proposal.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: The Minister has mentioned that they are in receipt of four applications for this route. May I know if these applications are *suo motu* or the Ministry advertised for this route?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: When the steamer service was stopped by the Government on this route, there were requests from various sectors, from Governments of both the States, Maharashtra and Goa; both approached the Central Government and we advised them if we could have the private sector helping us in this sector. On that basis, these three companies offered four proposals for this route, out of which three were rejected due to various factors and one with Binkam Shipping Private Limited is still valid up to 29th November 1989.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, this steamer service is of vital importance since 65 per cent of the international tourists land in Bombay and everybody wants destination to Goa. During the IPKF operations, these ships were withdrawn but a commitment was given at that time that these would be reintroduced for service. The Minister mentioned that four applications have been received out of which three have been rejected and one is still valid. But I don't think it is going to come about. Anyway, till such time the private sector does not enter, would the Government propose to reintroduce the service that was available earlier, and there was a commitment also made earlier to the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of Goa that it would press it in after the IPKF requirements are over.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Initially, the commitment was that whatever the losses in this service, 80 per cent of the total loss would be reimbursed in some ratio between Maharashtra, Goa and the Central Government. This 80 per cent of the loss was shared

between the Government of Maharashtra, Goa and Central Government in the ratio of 45:35:25. The remaining 20 per cent of loss was met by SCI. "We had a discussion with the State Governments and we proposed to them that either they run this service by an arrangement between the State Government of Goa and the State Government of Maharashtra, or if they want SCI to run it for them, then they must reimburse the losses, because it is certainly no logic that SCI should suffer the loss for giving this service between one State to another State. Shipping Corporation is a totally commercial organisation as far as shipping is concerned. So, there was not a very positive response from both the States. Then they said if we permit them, they can have private sector involved in it. We permitted both the State Governments to offer it to private sector and if they run this service between both the places, the Central Government has no objection. Secondly, I agree with the hon. Member that for tourists it is a good attraction because sailing in a ship for 22 hours is very comfortable and it is a beautiful sail, but as far as the number of passengers is concerned, it was coming down because people who are really in need to go from Bombay to Goa, they have taken the mode of road transport. So it was more of a tourist nature operating for 8 months in a year, from October to May. During the monsoon, it would stop. So both the State Governments have been advised that they must put in their efforts if they have to develop their tourism through the ITDC or the Tourism Department from the Central Government. I would certainly pass on the suggestions of the hon. Members to both the State Governments and also our Tourism department if they could co-operate and resume service in some ways.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: What are you going to do?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I can provide the ships.

SHRI T. R. BALU: Through you, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has received any applications to fly hydrofoil or hovercraft as far as the eastern coast-line is concerned, and whether the Government proposes to help such entrepreneurs by way of subsidy so as to bring down the rates as far as the fare by bus and train is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question does not arise; but if you have got any information, you can give it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I don't think there is any particular project for the east and west coast but we had tried through SCI and through some other agencies where we could cut the road distance by using water transport, like we wanted a so-so service between some route between Maharashtra and Goa again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asked about the east coast.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The route is Jafarabad-Bombay-Marmagao-New Mangalore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are talking about the west coast.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I have said very clearly. There is no proposal in regard to the east coast. But I said that we, on our own, tried to get some proposals whereby the road distance could be reduced by using the water transport. Of these proposals, one proposal was in regard to the Jafarabad-Bombay-Marmagao - New Mangalore route, touching the other ports...

SHRI T. R. BALU: Mr. Minister, you are talking about the west coast. My question was in relation to the Bay of Bengal.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I hope you understand me. I have said that there is no proposal. But Sir, I can always inform the House. I can always give the House additional information that

we have in this regard. I do not think there is any restriction on that. I am just telling the House that we are trying to cut the distance...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not permitted under the rules.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has considered the various cost factors involved in the hydrofoil and steamer transport. What I would suggest is that we should look at the whole problem from the point of view that we have a very beautiful coastline throughout the country. In this connection, I would like to know whether there is any proposal to have an all-India coastline travel by hydrofoil or, sector-wise, by steamer, so that you can start from one end of the country to go to the other. I would like to know whether this would be feasible from the tourism point of view.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, keeping this in mind, we did try our best to get proposals from both the public and the private sectors. But no proposal has come either in regard to the hydrofoil, or, in regard to the other proposal referred to by the hon. Member.

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन : सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कलकत्ता से इलाहाबाद तक जो पैसेंजर स्टीमर सर्विस चालू करने का मसूबा बना था, उसका क्या हुआ और कब तक यह चालू होने की उम्मीद है ?

[شی محمد امین : سر میں مانینگے ملتوی جی سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کلکتہ سے الہ آباد تک جو پسنیجر اسٹیمر سروس چالو کرنے کا منصوبہ بنا تھا اسکا کیا ہوا اور کب تک یہ چالو ہونے کی امید

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† [] Transliteration in Arabic script.

श्री राजेश पायलट : चेयरमैन सर, कार्गो से सामान तो अभी हम कलकत्ता से इलाहाबाद तक ले जा रहे हैं और उसमें काफी प्रगति हुई है। हमने जो अभी नय आर्डर पानी के जहाजों के लिये दिये हैं और खास कर रिवर बैसलज के उसमें कुछ सवारियों के भी आर्डर हैं और जैसा ही वह हमको मिलने शुरू हो जायेंगे, हमारी सरकार की बहुत इच्छा है कि इन रूट्स पर हम जरूर पैसेजर्स के लिये वह सेवा दें पायें, जिससे पैसेजर्स उसका फायदा उठा पायें। तो जल्दी ही उसमें प्रगति होगी।

*322. [The questioner (Shri Ram Jethmalani) was absent. For answer, vide col. 35 infra].

UNESCO/s Participation in Jawahar Lal Nehru Centenary celebrations

*323. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO has decided to participate in the Jawahar Lal Nehru Centenary Celebrations by translating and publishing Nehru's work in Spanish and organising seminars etc; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

In pursuance of the Resolution adopted at the 24th Session of General Conference of UNESCO held in October-November, 1987, UNESCO has initiated/associated itself with the following activities connected with celebration of 100th anniversary of birth of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:—

- (i) Translation and Publication in Spanish of selected extracts

from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's under mentioned works:—

- (a) Discovery of India
- (b) Glimpses of World History
- (c) Autobiography

- (ii) International Seminar on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from 27-29 September at UNESCO Paris on the theme "Jawaharlal Nehru, the Man and his Vision" in which eminent personalities and intellectuals from all over the world are expected to participate.

- (iii) Issue of a Commemorative coin on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru which will be released by UNESCO at the inauguration of the International Seminar.

- (iv) Proposal to institute an International Annual Award in the memory of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

- (v) Provision of space and services, free of charge, for a prestigious Exhibition on Nehru entitled "Nehru: his life and his India" which will be organised by Implementation Committee for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary from September 7—29, 1989.

- (vi) Under its participation programme, Provision of a subvention of Rs. 2,24,500/- (equivalent of US \$ 15,000) to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi for organising at New Delhi an International Symposium on "Jawaharlal Nehru—Liberational Movements in Asia and Africa and the World Order".

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Chairman, Sir, the 24th Session